

The messenger, in this case was Stark. His words were crude and offensive but his frank oration is admirable. Stark could have chosen his words more carefully, a fact the Democratic leadership made apparent when they dragged him behind the woodshed. But love him or hate him, Stark had the guts to speak in a way that most of his 434 colleagues won't.

Stark cut through the vapid pabulum that passes for political debate in this country; the junk-food rhetoric composed by spin-doctors, tested by focus groups, and proofread by campaign consultants and lobbyists. Just listen to what emanates from the mouths of the leading candidates of both parties in the lead up to November 2008. Or watch the drivel passed off as incisive political coverage on the 24-hour cable TV stations. Whether it's Hillary, Romney, Guiliani, Edwards, or McCain, not one policy or word is uttered without first being massaged and sanitized, calculated not to enlighten or lead, but to win votes without offending any demographic.

Obama, who was catapulted into second place in the polls because he appeared sincere in the spring, has receded after picking up the playbook of "serious candidate."

Stark got into hot water while speaking of the fundamental choice of policy-makers: one framed as "guns or butter." Eventually societies must choose between military spending and the needs of its citizenry.

The statement was uttered during debate on the House floor following Bush's veto of the popular State Children's Health Care Program (SCHIP), an \$11.2 billion annual program that helps poor parents buy health insurance for their children.

Compare that figure to this week's White House request for \$46 billion more to shovel into the quagmires in Iraq and Afghanistan. According to an estimate by the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, if the above figure is included, by the time the clock runs out on Bush's administration, U.S. taxpayers will be on the hook for \$808 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. That's roughly 10 times what Bush's father spent to humble Saddam Hussein in 1991.

China won't keep lending us that money forever. Sooner or later, the bill will come due.

What Stark actually told his colleagues: "The Republicans are worried that they can't pay for insuring an additional 10 million children."

"They sure don't care about finding \$200 billion to fight the illegal war in Iraq. Where are you going to get that money? Are you going to tell us lies like you're telling us today? Is that how you're going to fund the war?"

"You don't have money to fund the (Iraq) war or children. But you're going to spend it to blow up innocent people—if we can get enough kids to grow old enough for you to send to Iraq to get their heads blown off for the president's amusement."

These incendiary words launched an explosive backlash from pundits who immediately demanded Stark's head.

Stark was next criticized by the Democratic Party leadership, but survived a vote of official reprimand that Democrats tabled. Stark then publicly apologized Tuesday saying: "I want to apologize to my colleagues, many of whom I have offended, to the president, his family, (and) to the troops. I apologize for this reason: I think we have serious issues before us, the issue of providing medical care to children, the issue about what we're going to do about a war that we're divided about how to end."

If a U.S. congressman can be shouted down for speaking an essential truth: that blood

and treasure is being spilled in a perverse quest by the current resident of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. to outshine the legacy of his own father, these are truly dire days for our republic.

One wonders what reactions would spew forth from the mouths of those who vilify Stark had they read the words of another great American, a true Republican: Gen. Dwight David Eisenhower:

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."

"We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together."

Too bad his warning so quickly landed in the ashcan of history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1022. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING DEL RIO COUNTRY CLUB

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Del Rio Country Club on celebrating their 60th anniversary in business. A celebration in honor of this achievement is to be held on Saturday, November 3, 2007.

The Del Rio Country Club was founded in 1946 by a small group of community leaders. It was shortly after the end of World War II, gas prices were high and esteems were low. The local community leaders took the gently rolling terrain just north of Modesto, California and invited William P. Bell to design the original eighteen holes. In 1996, the course grew. Del Rio was granted permission from the Federal Government to use the 150 acres as a combination of riparian habitat and golf course. Architect Robert Muir Graves was asked to design a second nine hole course, the River Nine. Then in 1998, the course was updated one more time. Architect John Harbottle supervised the reconstruction of all tees, greens and bunkers on William Bell's original layout.

Today, the Del Rio Country Club has 2 courses. One course is overlooked by a club house that features the Redwood Dining Room. The Country Club also features tennis courts and other family activities. The course is ranked among the top 20 golf courses in Northern California.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Del Rio Country Club on 60

years of business. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Del Rio Country Club many years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 968, on passage of H.R. 3678, the Internet Tax Freedom Act Amendments Act of 2007, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE STATE CHAMPION SCHOOLS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize and honor the 2006–2007 President's Challenge State Champion schools named by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. In particular, I would like to recognize two Tennessee schools, Percy Priest Elementary School in Nashville and Bartlett Elementary School in Bartlett, TN.

These two Tennessee schools have set examples that others would do well to follow. They have shown commitment to educating students on the benefits of physical activity and maintaining healthy lifestyles. Across the state of Tennessee, these two schools had the highest proportion of students scoring at or above the 85th percentile on the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test for the 2006–2007 school year.

To promote overall health and well-being, the President's Challenge program encourages all Americans to make being active part of their everyday lives. Percy Priest and Bartlett Elementary embraced these goals and in so doing succeeded in obtaining State Champion status.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the President's Challenge State Champions for being role models for other schools and for improving the overall health and well-being of their students.

HONORING THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NAPA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the First Christian Church of Napa, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary. The Church has a storied history in the Napa Valley, where it has become a fixture in our community and an important place for people to come together and worship.

The First Christian Church of Napa was founded in 1857 by G.O. Burnett. Its success built on the work of "Stormy John" McCorkle, who had founded the first congregation in the valley under a Madrona tree near modern-day Rutherford. With the motto "Let's go Forward through Faith", the Church has expanded well beyond the original eight families who formed the charter group. In 1872, members of the congregation came together to purchase a piece of land for the church building, and began construction. Lacking a resident minister in these years, four men worked in concert to lead the Church. These "Four Horsemen", who helped provide spiritual guidance and leadership in the church were A.A. Whitman, T.N. Mount, A.D. Butler, and W.P. Prall.

In 1951, the First Christian Church moved to its current location on First Street in Napa. While promoting an active spiritual life in the congregation, the church has reached out to the community and the world. Members of the church have worked on Christian humanitarian missions on six continents in a wide variety of different countries. Additionally, church members have worked in inner-city Los Angeles and San Francisco, and locally volunteer time with the Napa Valley Food Bank, Church Women United and other community benefit groups.

The First Christian Church has always taken pride in the sense of community among its members, and the work that goes in to helping members of the congregation have full lives and strong interpersonal relationships. By emphasizing the importance of family and fidelity, the church has drawn membership from families for many generations.

Madam Speaker, at this time it is appropriate that we congratulate the First Christian Church of Napa on its 150th anniversary, and thank the congregation for all it does in our community.

IN TRIBUTE TO SISTER ANN HALLORAN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sr. Ann Halloran, a community leader, co-founder and executive director of the Dominican Center for Women located in the Fourth Congressional District. The Milwaukee Archdiocese has recently presented Sr. Ann Halloran with the 2007 Vatican II "Service to Society" Award.

Sr. Ann Halloran and Sr. Anne-Marie Doyle founded the Dominican Center for Women in 1990 in a near north-side Milwaukee neighborhood with no formal clubs or community-based organizations. The mission of this human service agency is to help create a beautiful and safe central city neighborhood by providing services in three programmatic areas: Education, employment and housing. Sr. Ann Halloran believes this three-pronged approach is essential to dismantling poverty.

The programs at the Dominican Center for Women are offered free of charge to approximately 120 area residents. Initially, the center began by offering educational programs and employment counseling. As a result of participant surveys and with the urging of residents,

a housing program utilizing a 12-block area surrounding the center was initiated in 1999. The housing program, designed to lead to home ownership, has become a primary focus of the center. The center leverages strategic partnerships and collaborations including Federal, State and local governmental agencies, faith-based organizations, sweat equity, volunteerism and the financial resources of a Habitat for Humanity loan, barter grants, IDA accounts and other resources found in the community, into affordable home ownership. Sixty-seven center program participants are now homeowners; they are primarily African-American women, single heads of households, who would not have been considered by mainstream conventional lending institutions.

The center continues to work with new homeowners after acquisition of the home by convening monthly meetings to encourage them to voice neighborhood concerns, take group action toward resolution, and ultimately ensure retention of their homes. The Dominican Center for Women and the participants in its program have been so successful that beginning in 2004 they hosted their first annual "Parade of Homes" in this previously blighted area.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Sr. Ann Halloran's contributions to the Fourth Congressional District. She has helped to transform a neighborhood into a community.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF TOLEDOAN SAM SZOR

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, since 1953, Samuel Szor has been an integral part of Toledo's music scene, earning him the title of Toledo's "Mr. Music." Mr. Szor ends his 55th season as the conductor/music director of the immensely popular Music under the Stars summer concert series held at the Toledo Zoo Amphitheater. Each summer our community happily anticipates the inception of another summer of the concert series of Music under the Stars. Because of Mr. Szor, music-lovers can rest in the Toledo Zoo's amphitheater taking in the beautiful sounds and sights of Toledo. Besides his dedication to bringing a collection of classical, patriotic and spirited pieces to Toledo residents, he holds an extensive list of additional credits.

In his early years after graduating with degrees from University of Michigan, he played bassoon with the Toledo Symphony, Toledo Opera Orchestra and the University of Toledo Woodwind Quintet and Trio as well as playing jazz saxophone in area bands and clubs. His conducting credits include the Casual concert series and other concerts with Toledo Symphony, twenty years with the Perrysburg Symphony Orchestra, guest conductor with the famous Goldman Memorial Band in New York City, and conductor/music director for opera, musical comedy and ballet theatre in the Toledo area. In the choral realm, he has been conductor/music director of The Toledo Choral Society for 49 years and was a director of church music for over 40 years. In addition to his conducting credits, he was a music educa-

tor serving for 32 years in the secondary and college levels in Toledo.

Mr. Szor has received numerous awards for his distinguished work, most recently including a national award from the American Hungarian foundation and the Ovation Award from the Vocal Arts Resource Network of Ohio. Toledo garners much pride in his commitment to evoke a mosaic of melodies to our community for decades. Sam Szor is an inspiration to conductors and musicians everywhere by his grace, ease and spirit toward music.

HONORING COPPELL MIDDLE SCHOOL NORTH BAND

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Coppel Middle School North Band on being named an Outstanding National Wind Band and winning the 1-A Middle School Division.

Coppel Middle School North was among 81 bands selected in the top 25 percent of recordings submitted to the National Winds Band Honors competition. Each band was judged once again and narrowed the selection down to the National Honor in each classification. Charles Peltz, director of the New England Conservatory of Music, and noted composer John Mackey were the judges for this event.

All National award-winner bands will be invited to perform in the prestigious National Theatre in Washington, D.C. in May 2008.

Coppel Middle School North's band is under the direction of Joey Ashbrook and assistant director, Jeremy Lindquist.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent Coppel Middle School North and their exceptional band department in the 24th District of Texas.

IN RECOGNITION OF T. J. LEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND THE IRVING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate T. J. Lee Elementary School and the Irving Independent School District (IISD) Food Service Department for being awarded the coveted Gold School Award by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

T. J. Lee Elementary is the first school in Texas to receive this prestigious honor. As part of the USDA's HealthierUS School Challenge program, schools around the nation are awarded two levels of certification: Silver and Gold. IISD eagerly took on this challenge and assumed a leadership role to ensure that our students are being served healthy school meals in addition to providing nutrition education and a variety of physical activities. Given the variety of food available, particularly fast food and snacks in vending machines, the